

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Announcement of an extension of the public comment period for the draft TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) for Parker Creek, Accomack County

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To extend the public comment period for the draft TMDLs for Parker Creek located in Accomack County.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has been working to identify sources of pollution in Parker Creek located in Accomack County, Virginia.

Parker Creek was identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report. The Aquatic Life Use was not being met due to poor health in the benthic biological community. The impaired benthic segment (TMDL ID VAT-D03R-01) is located in the free-flowing freshwater portion and extends 2.03 miles ending at the tidal interface.

During the study, the pollutants impairing the aquatic community have been identified and total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, developed for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, contamination levels must be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: The development of a TMDL includes public meetings and a public comment period once the study report is drafted. After public comments have been considered and addressed, DEQ will submit the TMDL report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period,

May 12, 2008 to May 28, 2008. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

TO REVIEW DRAFT TMDL REPORT: The draft TMDL report on the impaired waters is available from the contact below or on the DEQ web site at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl>.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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